

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 09083 191155Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ARA-06 FBO-02

CPR-01 SSO-00 CU-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 CCO-00 OC-05 SCCT-01

NSCE-00 /090 W

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R 191108Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4389

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CHIANG MAI 116 OF MAY 19 SENT BANGKOK UDORN AND SONGKHLA  
BEING REPEATED FOR INFO: QUOTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN CHIANG MAI

1. A SERIES OF PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN  
CHIANG MAI MAY 18 AND GENERALLY DUPLICATED SIMILAR ACTIVITIES  
IN BANGKOK BUT ON SMALLER SCALE.

2. DURING LATE AFTERNOON PROTESTERS GATHERED 150-200  
ONLOOKERS (MOSTLY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE)  
AT TAPAE GATE (CHIANG MAI'S HYDE PARK AREA) WITH ALL SPEAKERS  
DENOUNCING U.S. IMPERIALISM, INSULT TO THE THAI PEOPLE BY  
UNAUTHORIZED LANDING OF MARINES AT U-TAPHAO, UNRELIABILITY  
OF U.S. AS FRIEND AS EVIDENCED BY OUR SELL OUT OF CAMBODIA  
AND SVN, U.S. ENGINEERED OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVT IN CHILE  
AND OTHER ANTI-U.S. SLOGANEERING. THIRICHAIR MARUKHAPITHAK,  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NORTHERN STUDENT CENTER, AND INSON  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 09083 191155Z

BUAKHIEO, SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND MP, AND AN UNIDENTIFIED

MASTER OF CEREMONIES WERE MAIN SPEAKERS. DURING THE AFTER-NOON, PROTESTERS HANGED BANNERS AND PLACARDS WITH USUAL EPITHETS/INSULTS ON WALL OUTSIDE USIS, CHIANG MAI COMPOUND.

3. AT 2000 HOURS PROTESTERS LISTENED TO RADIO THAILAND NEWS BROADCAST FROM BANGKOK AND THEN HUDDLED TO DECIDE NEXT COURSE OF ACTION. DECISION WAS TO MARCH MN U.S. CONSULATE AND CONTINUE PROTEST BECAUSE AT 2115 DEMONSTRATORS STARTED GATHERING AT GATES TO CONSULATE COMPOUND. ABOUT 150 DEMONSTRATORS TORE DOWN CONSULATE SEAL AND PLAQUE FROM FRONT GATE LEAVING PLAQUE AND THROWING SEAL INTO MAE PING RIVER, BROKE A LIGHT ON THE GATE, WROTE ANTI-U.S. SLOGANS ON CONSULATE WALLS IN THAI AND ENGLISH AND HUNG MORE POSTERS AND PLACARDS.

4. ONE PROTESTER ENTERED CONSULATE COMPOUND BUT WAS MET BY THE THREE UNIFORMED POLICEMEN INSIDE WHO WARNED HIM AND ESCORTED HIM BACK TO THE GATE. NO OTHER DEMONSTRATORS TRIED TO ENTER CONSULATE COMPOUND. TWO POLICE PATROL VEHICLES REMAINED OUTSIDE THE CONSULATE AND SEVERAL PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN WERE IN THE CROWD. THERE WAS NO OTHER DAMAGE AND DEMONSTRATORS MADE NO DEMANDS TO MEET ANY AMERICAN OFFICIALS. DEMONSTRATION BROKE UP ABOUT 2200.

5. AS PRECAUTION CONSUL'S WIFE AND FAMILY WERE ESCORTED TO VICE CONSUL'S HOME BY CONSULATE LOCAL EMPLOYEE SHORTLY BEFORE PROTESTERS ARRIVED. MRS. HARBIN AND FAMILY RETURNED TO RESIDENCE ABOUT 2230.

6. DEMONSTRATORS SAID THAT IF THAI PEOPLE DID NOT GET THE OFFICIAL APOLOGY AS DEMANDED BY THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN BANGKOK, THEY WOULD BE BACK TO DEMONSTRATE AT THE CONSULATE ON TUESDAY, MAY 20. NO OTHER DETAILS ABOUT AN IMPENDING DEMONSTRATION ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TONE OF SPEECHES WAS AS COLORFULLY HOSTILE AS SPEAKERS' IMAGINATIONS PERMITTED, THE STUDENTS AND OTHERS WHO GATHERED AT TAPAE GATE REMAINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 09083 191155Z

CALM AND ALMOST PASSIVE THROUGHOUT THE DEMONSTRATION. THOSE AT THE CONSULATE WERE MORE HOSTILE BUT NOT VIOLENT. AT TAPAE GATE MANY CAUCASIAN TOURISTS (MOSTLY NON-AMERICAN) WALKED AROUND AND THROUGH GATHERED THROG BUT AS FAR AS CONOFF COULD TELL NONE OF THE DEMONSTRATORS SAID OR DID NAYTHING TO ANY OF THESE "FARANGS" THATCOULD BE CONSTRUED AS HOSTILE OR INSULTING. EVEN AT THE CONSULATE THE DEMONSTRATORS

WERE AT NO TIME VIOLENT AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE HEARD  
LEADERS CAUTIONING SOME OF THE MORE IMPETUOUS ONES WHO  
WANTED TO BREAK INTO THE CONSULATE GROUNDS. SO FAR  
THESE DEMONSTRATORS HAVEN'T LOST THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR,  
THE DEMONSTRATION LEADERS ARE NOT TRYING TO FOMENT  
VIOLENCE AND THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY PHYSICAL  
THREAT TO CONSULATE PROPERTY OR AMERICANS IN CHIANG  
MAI.  
HARBIN UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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